

21 March 1995

Dear Mr. Newman,

It was great to speak to you by phone from the St. Louis Airport. It was a wonderful coincidence to have found that book in the shop there and that you were home.

I have enclosed photocopies concerning William Rollinson. I think these answer several of your questions. The one article by Mr. Reid is similar to the book (he wrote the Rollinson biography) which I have NOT copied as it is fragile.

I look forward to getting copies of the bank notes in your collection which William created and any other material you may have on him.

My address:

Jim Boulden
Crown Quay
26 Trehern Rd.
East Sheen, London
UK
SW14 8PD

Thank you.

THE ENGRAVER'S NEEDLE

By ROBERT W. REID *nyack ny*

gift of the author

EDITOR'S NOTE: The loan exhibit of Lodge relics held during November by Suffolk Lodge, No. 60, Port Jefferson, in the Grand Lodge Library, contained an old certificate, yellowed with age, but engraved by an artist of undoubted ability, that caught the attention of a visitor to the Library, W. Robert W. Reid, Secretary of Washington Lodge, No. 21, I Manhattan. A careful study of the document revealed the identity of the craftsman: no less a person than William Rollinson, well known in the art circles of the country a century and a half ago. A student of engraving during the period covered by Rollinson's activities, W. Bro. Reid was asked to present OUTLOOK readers with a resumé of the work of this distinguished artist and Mason, W. Bro. Rollinson—for during his Masonic career he was Worshipful Master of two Lodges. The article has meant patient research in the City's libraries, and correspondence with descendants of the artist, and the result is another interesting chapter in the history of the Craft in this State.

WILLIAM ROLLINSON was born in England on April 15, 1762, and died in New York City September 27, 1842, being buried in St. John's Churchyard, now Hudson Park, in New York City. He came

to this country in 1788, leaving his wife and family for the time being in Birmingham, England, and—but let him tell this part of his story, as recorded in his diary:

"I arrived in Liverpool on Tuesday evening November 18, 1788, to embark for New York Wednesday, November 19. I agreed with Cap't Tho's Carberry for my passage in the cabin of the 'Nancy' and paid him Twenty Guineas for the same."

The voyage, of ten weeks' duration, was stormy and disagreeable, save for a short period while in the neighborhood of the Equator. Most of the time the voyager was in poor health and suffered severely.

Again quoting his diary: "Sunday 15, February, 1789, passed Sandy Hook Light House at seven and got moored unto the wharf at New York soon after Twelve at night. In the morning I put my foot ashore on American Ground with a thankful heart unto the Almighty for all His Mercies in bringing me safe thro' so many Difficulties and Dangers."

The ship had sailed, according to the log, 6176 miles in making the trip from Liverpool to New York. The diary account of his trip across the ocean is a highly interesting and human document.

Rollinson had learned the trade of chaser of fancy buttons

and came to New York with the object of following his trade. The following interesting story as related of him by Dunlap, a contemporary, is of particular interest to the Mason: "General Knox, the first Secretary of War, employed Mr. R. to chase the arms of the United States upon a set of gold buttons for the coat which was worn by General Washington on the memorable day of his inauguration as President. Soon after General Knox called to make payment, but the young Englishman had caught the spirit of the country of his choice and would receive no compensation, declaring that he was more than paid by having the honor of working for such a man on such an occasion. Shortly after, the chiefs of the Creek Indians, with McGillivray at their head, arrived at New York and silver arm-bands and medals were required for these Sons of the Forest as presents from the United States. These decorations required ornamentation and General Knox remunerated the button-chaser by giving him many of them to engrave."

Without previous experience or instruction, in 1791 Mr. Rollinson undertook copper-plate engraving, and the first subject essayed was a profile portrait of General Washington. He improved rapidly in the art. He invented a method of making a background by means of a roulette inserted in a ruling machine, and in 1812 invented a machine to rule

waved lines for engraving the margins of bank-notes. This invention was a great improvement in bank-note engraving and created a sensation among engravers of the time. It accomplished what he considered a requisite in bank-note printing—"a design simple in appearance and obvious at a glance, yet impossible to be imitated in the common mode of engraving." He continued as an engraver until he had reached the age of seventy years.

DUNLAP, who knew him well, says of him: "At seventy-four his portrait was painted by F. S. Agate, an excellent likeness, which might indicate a man of fifty," also describing him as a "worthy man and very estimable citizen—he had perseverance and ingenuity to surmount all difficulties."

Rollinson's early Masonic career does not appear to have been a bed of roses. He seems to have been very much involved in the troubles connected with old Lodge No. 210 (English Registration) and its successors. He probably received his Degrees in Jerusalem Lodge, No. 4,

New York City, or in Lodge No. 210, just before its Charter was canceled. He rapidly forged to the front, becoming Junior Warden of Jerusalem Lodge in (Continued on page 181)



☛ Certificate engraved by William Rollinson for Suffolk Lodge, now of Port Jefferson, Long Island, in its early days in Oyster Bay, and exhibited during the month of November in the loan exhibit of Lodge antiquities held in the Grand Lodge Library

GRAND LECTURER'S ENGAGEMENTS

THE Grand Lecturer announces the following revised list of dates and places for Conventions in the First Westchester-Putnam District:

Monday, February 16	Dobbs Ferry
Wednesday, March 4	Peekskill
Tuesday, March 17	Yonkers

WOLCOTT DEDICATES

WOLCOTT LODGE, No. 560, was chartered June 19, 1865, as Red Creek Lodge, with the same number, and located in that village. It prospered until 1874, when a general fire wrought havoc in Red Creek, the Lodge-room being destroyed with all of the paraphernalia, books, papers and even the charter of the Lodge, and without insurance. This so crippled the Lodge that, though another charter was granted June 5, 1874, the organization dwindled for a number of years.

In 1880 a special dispensation, running from year to year, authorized its transfer to Wolcott, until, June 7, 1894, its name was officially changed to Wolcott Lodge. On February 10, 1884, the Lodge was again burned out, with the old Empire Block, losing everything, but fortunately with insurance. The papers destroyed included a charter granted in 1816 by M. W. DeWitt Clinton, Grand Master, for the formation of a Masonic Lodge in Wolcott. This predecessor of the present Wolcott Lodge was a thriving organization for eleven years, until it was forced to disband in 1827 during the anti-Masonic excitement; but the charter had been religiously preserved by a faithful few. After the fire the Lodge located in the quarters it is just leaving in the Roe & Moore building, where it remained for forty-six years, finally outgrowing its Lodge-rooms when it attained a membership of 275. After a fire of last June arrangements were made to build, whereby the Lodge was to own the entire second floor for a new Temple. The necessary financial arrangements were carried out, and work was commenced in August. On September 5 M. W. S. Nelson Sawyer conducted the laying of the cornerstone.

On December 17 the Grand Master, assisted by his staff, dedicated the completed structure. When the formal ceremonies had been concluded the Grand Master and M. W. S. Nelson Sawyer, Past Grand Master, addressed the Brethren.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WHITE FACE MOUNTAIN LODGE, No. 789, Saranac Lake, brought cheer to fifty children of Saranac Lake, whose Christmas would otherwise be empty, at a rollicking Christmas Eve party in the Masonic Club rooms. A decorated Christmas tree, loaded with surprise packages of toys, candy and fruit, as well as useful gifts of clothing, brought joy to many tiny hearts.

LONG ISLAND LODGE, No. 382, I Kings held its Fifth Annual Kiddies Christmas Party at the Brooklyn Masonic Temple the evening of December 29. The program consisted of an opening number by the orchestra, under the direction of Bro. George W. Glading of the Lodge; Song and Dance Revue; Punch and Judy—"Miniature Folks" Mr. Lew A. Ward; Recitation, Miss Cecil Barker; "The Two-in-One Act," Mr. Lewis Ward, Ventriloquist; Toe Dance Specialty, Miss Lorraine Bauersfeld; Songs and Readings, Miss Angelina Mezvesteta; Aeroplanes and Butterflies, Mr. William Van, and Santa Claus, Bro. Byron Connell.



PARK STUDIO

As the result of researches made in securing material for the article on Rollinson, early Masonic engraver, the above portraits have been located. They are owned by W. S. Simon H. Rollinson, a descendant, who is a Past Master of Corinthian Lodge, No. 57, Orange, New Jersey, by whose kind assistance photographs have been secured, with permission to reproduce.

The ENGRAVER'S NEEDLE

(Continued from page 168)

1792, Senior Warden in 1793 and Master in 1794. Dissension in the Lodge was rife, to the extent that it was decided to cancel the Charter and to issue a new one to each of the factions. Rollinson received a Charter for Phoenix Lodge, No. 11, serving as Master in 1795, 1796 and 1797. But unhappy misunderstandings existed in this Lodge as well, and it was the unanimous opinion of members that no plan was so likely to effect reconciliation and assure

VII SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS ORGANIZE

THE Secretaries and Treasurers of the Tenth Manhattan District have formed a Secretaries and Treasurers Association for the purpose of affording an opportunity for these officers to become acquainted and to provide a medium for the interchange of ideas. Bro. Louis Albert, Goet Lodge, No. 918, has been elected President; Bro. Robert Levinson, Faragut Lodge, No. 976, Vice-President; Bro. Ben Monis, Netherland Lodge, No. 904, Secretary, and Bro. Philip Cohen, Gotham Lodge, No. 901, Treasurer.

future tranquility as a separation. Accordingly, on March 5, 1800, seceding Brethren received a Charter for Washington Lodge (now No. 21) and Rollinson was again called to take the East in Phoenix Lodge. He was also a member of Hibernian Chapter, R.A.M., and served as its High Priest.

The following is a list of recorded specimens of Rollinson's work done for Masonic Lodges: Certificates for Washington Chapter, R. A. M.; Suffolk Lodge, No. 60; Westchester Lodge, No. 46, Westchester; Phoenix Lodge, No. 11, New York City; Hampton Lodge, No. 347, Westmoreland; Huntington Lodge, No. 26; Louisiana Lodge, "N.O." (probably New Orleans).

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

HAVING read in the December OUTLOOK of the attendance record of R. W. John W. Müller of Lessing Lodge, who has not missed a meeting for nineteen years, Bro. H. H. Wright submits the record of Bro. John F. Baumel, of Mosaic Lodge, No. 418, who has been present at every stated communication of his Lodge also for nineteen years. He has served as Junior Master of Ceremony, Junior Deacon, Steward and Marshal.

DISTRICT MASTERS ENTERTAINED

A MEETING for investing the newly elected Masters with the secrets of the chair was held at Allegany Lodge, No. 225, Friendship, December 27. Every Lodge in the Allegany Masonic District was represented and every newly elected Master was present to participate in the ceremony. About eighty representative Masons of the District were present. There were ten Past District Deputy Grand Masters and the District Deputies of the Allegany and Genesee-Wyoming Districts at the meeting. The presiding officer was R. W. Benjamin S. Brundage, Past District Deputy of the Allegany District. The speaker was R. W. Henry G. Meacham, Grand Lecturer. R. W. William Schaffner, District Deputy, Genesee-Wyoming; R. W. Herbert A. Arnold, District Deputy, and W. Lester J. Ward, Assistant Grand Lecturer, both of Allegany District, also addressed the meeting.

ROLL-CALL

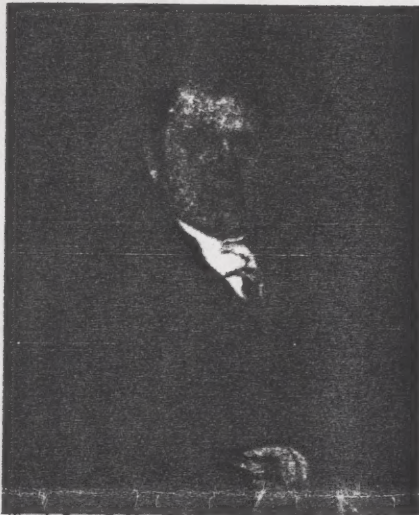
TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY Masons were present at the First Annual Roll Call and Get-Together of Mosgaup Lodge, No. 816, on December 9, when a hundred and ninety-seven members answered to their names as the roll was called by Past Masters of the Lodge and members of earlier years. W. Dewey A. Borden, in charge of the ceremonies, called upon Bro. William B. Hand, one of the twenty Charter Members of the Lodge, who gave a short historical sketch of the Lodge's forming. In 1896 several Liberty Masons, then members of Livingston Manor Lodge, conceived the idea of forming a similar body in that village. W. C. L. Beaumont was the first Master of the Lodge.

1930 CLASSES ENTERTAINED

A NOVEL IDEA was carried out December 13 by the Schenectady Masonic Club, when it had as its guests the 1930 Classes of all the Lodges in the City, and all Sojourning Masons. Bro. A. B. Wescott is President of the Club, and Bro. James P. Eaton, Secretary.

William Rollinson, Engraver

By Stephen Decatur



American Collector - Dec. 1940.
—Simon H. Rollinson

William Rollinson

From a contemporary portrait by an unidentified American artist.

THERE is an old story to the effect that on the occasion of his first inauguration as president, in 1789, General Washington wore a suit of homespun on which were a set of gilt buttons engraved with the arms of the United States. A contemporary account of the ceremonies supports this tale and Dunlap states that the buttons were engraved by a young Englishman named William Rollinson who, undertaking the work at the request of General Knox, refused to accept any compensation for them, saying that he was more than paid by having the honor of working for such an illustrious man as Washington on such an auspicious occasion.

Since there is documentary evidence to show that Knox obtained the cloth for Washington and sent it to Mount Vernon, it would seem probable that he also procured the buttons to go with it. Apparently, Rollinson himself frequently told of the incident at a time when many persons were alive who could have contradicted it if it were not true. Consequently, it seems that the story may be accepted; but whether any of the buttons have survived is, perhaps, open to doubt, although a few are known which have reasonable claims to authenticity. There are, however, several types of large copper buttons, some extremely rare, which were made about the time of Washington's second inauguration and which

are frequently mistaken for the Rollinson articles. They either bear the initials "G. W." or an eagle and shield with the date "March the Fourth 1789" and were undoubtedly purchased and worn by enthusiastic admirers of the president.

It is not known who recommended William Rollinson to General Knox, but it may be assumed it was one of the silversmiths for whom the young man was then working. At the time, he had been in this country only a few months and the fact that he received this commission would indicate that his ability was very quickly recognized. He was the eldest son of Robert and Mary Rollinson and was born in Dudley, County Worcester, England, on April 15, 1762. Little information concerning his early years is available, but he evidently studied the art of ornamental engraving, probably serving an apprenticeship for "seal sinking" and for chasing designs on silverware, metal buttons, and similar articles. As semi-precious stones were used for seals almost as frequently as metal, it is quite probable that Rollinson also learned to do intaglio cutting of gems, and, while there is no direct evidence that he ever practiced this branch

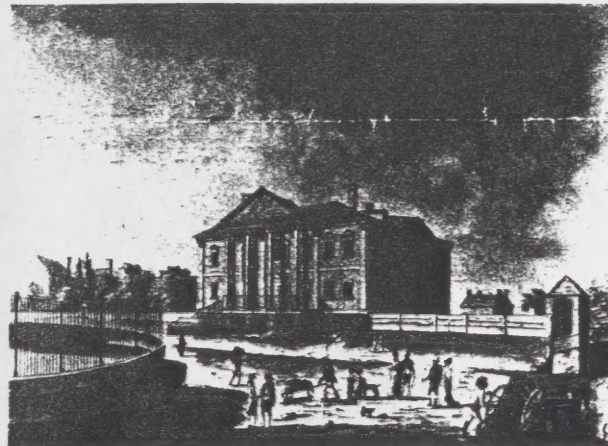
arrival in the United States, Rollinson went back to England for his family, returning with them almost immediately and thereafter he made New York City his home.

On his first arrival in New York, Rollinson set up as a chaser of fancy buttons, then much in style, and seems to have found ready employment. But the work he did for Washington is his earliest recorded activity. He did not suffer from his refusal to accept pay for that job, for about a year later General Knox, as secretary of war, commissioned him to make arm bands and medals for a delegation of Creek Indians who then visited the seat of government under their half-breed chief, Alexander McGillivray. At this period, also, the young man seems to have been well patronized by various silversmiths for chasing heraldic and similar designs upon pieces of their manufacture.

About 1791, without any previous experience, Rollinson began to experiment with copperplate engraving and it is in this direction that he achieved his reputation. Many of his works are very rare and valuable. His first attempt seems to have been with a portrait of Washington, described as oval, profile to right,

after Edward Savage, prints of which are exceedingly scarce and which should not be confused with a later portrait of Washington dated 1796. But apparently before he had finished his initial effort, he received a commission to engrave several plates for Brown's *Family Bible*, published in 1792, and these illustrations are generally regarded as the earliest examples of his work.

Almost at the same time he also made some of the illustrations for Maynard's edition of *Josephus*. In 1795 he produced a plan of the City of Washington, the first map of the future national capital to be published in New York. Up to this point Rollinson had worked with line engraving only, but in 1796 he changed his style to stipple and the shift ere long marked a great improvement in his work, although his first attempts with this technique were decidedly



—New York Historical Society

Custom House, New York

This was engraved by Rollinson circa 1800 and is one of the very rare early prints of New York.

of the trade, he often called himself a "seal sinker and engraver."

Rollinson was married in his early twenties to Mary Johnson at St. Martin's Parish in Birmingham. In 1788 he decided to emigrate to America and, leaving his family in England until such time as he should become established in the new world, he sailed for New York in the late fall of the year. But the passage was excessively long and stormy so that he did not reach Sandy Hook until February 15, 1789. During the voyage he kept a diary which gives a most interesting account of a winter crossing of the Atlantic at that period. About a year after his



—Chase National Bank

A Banknote Engraved by Rollinson

This bears the signature of Leney & Rollinson and is dated 1819. Executed for the Montreal Bank, it bears, at the left-hand end, "Two Dollars"; at the opposite end, "Deux Piastres," showing that the Canadian unit of currency was still influenced by European terminology.

crude as may be seen by his plates engraved for Payne's *Geography* and Tiebout and O'Brien's *Voyages of Captain Cook*, both published about 1796.

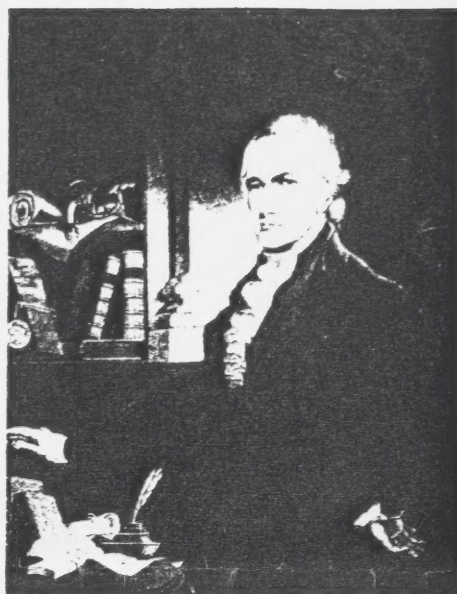
As soon as it was possible for him to do so, that is, in the spring of 1798, Rollinson became a naturalized citizen of the United States. Always an ardent champion of his adopted country, he served for many years in one of the New York military companies. In 1800-03 he was a lieutenant in General Ebenezer Steven's Regiment of Artillery. He was also a prominent member of the Freemasons' Society, being Master of Jerusalem Lodge No. 4 of New York in 1794 and of Phoenix Lodge No. 11 of New York in 1795-6-7 and in 1800. This latter connection is especially interesting since he engraved many Masonic certificates not only for lodges in New York and vicinity, but for others as far away as New Orleans. Invariably these have a high degree of excellence.

Rollinson engraved two pictures of New York City, both highly prized by collectors. The first, which shows the custom house, formerly the government house, probably appeared about 1800, and the second, a view of the city from Long Island, was published early in 1801. Prints from these plates are great rarities and have brought very high prices. In fact, only two copies of the custom house view are recorded in Stokes *Iconography*.

But perhaps the best known of Rollinson's works is his portrait of Alexander Hamilton after the painting by Archibald Robertson. The engraver began the plate about 1800 more as a means of employing his leisure time than with an idea of pecuniary profit; but in July, 1804, when it was about half finished, Hamilton was killed in his duel with Aaron Burr and, to meet a popular demand for a picture of the dead statesman,

the plate was rushed to completion. It was an immediate success; but although many prints were sold at the time, today copies are comparatively scarce. Rollinson also produced another portrait of Hamilton which apparently is almost an exact copy of the print by G. Graham, 1796, after the painting by Walter Robertson.

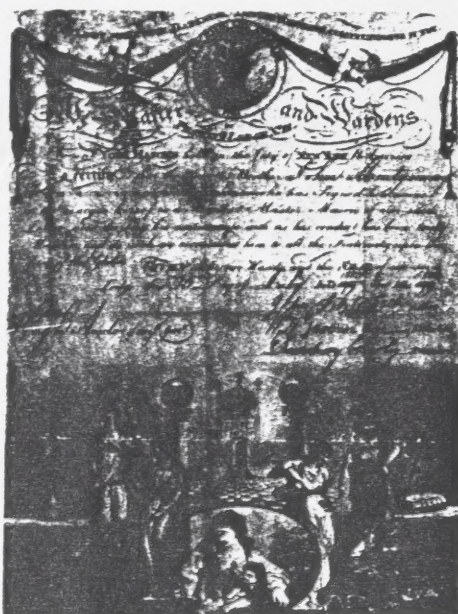
In the course of speeding the plate of Hamilton's portrait, Rollinson hit on a method for the quick filling in of backgrounds by the insertion of a roulette in a ruling machine. This discovery was hailed at the time as a great step forward in the art of engraving. But his most useful invention came in 1811 when, in an endeavor to check widespread counterfeiting, he designed



—Museum of the City of New York *American Collector*
Dec. 1940.

Alexander Hamilton

This portrait print was engraved by Rollinson after a portrait by Robertson and is dated August 28, 1804.



—Grand Lodge, State of New York

Masonic Certificate Engraved by Rollinson

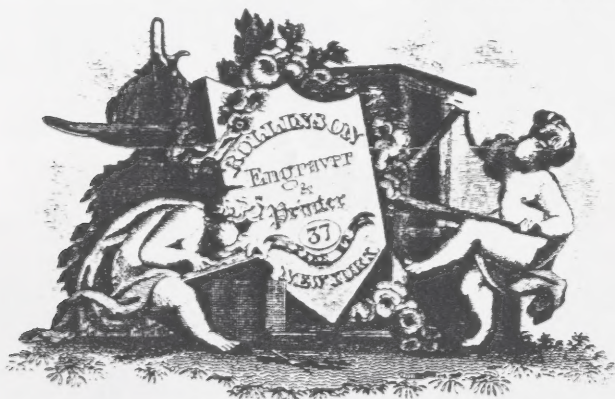
This is signed "Bro. Rollinson, Sculpt. M. of P. L." dated 1803, from which it appears that it was engraved while Rollinson was Master of Phoenix Lodge, New York.

a machine for ruling waved lines on banknotes which caused a great sensation among his contemporaries and brought him in much added business. At that time he had entered into partnership with William S. Leney, a successful connection which lasted for several years. The firm, and later Rollinson himself, enjoyed a wide business with banks and produced a great many banknotes and other financial papers.

Rollinson engraved three certificates for Columbia College which probably date soon after 1800. He also did several illustrations for the *Analectic Magazine* of which the most familiar, and undoubtedly the best, is his portrait of Captain James Lawrence after Stuart's painting. He continued to produce book illustrations for many years and made numerous bookplates, usually of simple armorial design, although occasionally he employed a great deal of elaboration as in the case of the one for the New York College of Pharmacists. Probably too, in the course of his extensive commercial business, he engraved many trade cards, and it may be assumed that the one he made for himself is a good example of his style in this field. It is a product of his later years when his address was 37 Pike St.

Incidentally, Rollinson's various addresses, as given in the old New York City directories, furnish an excellent commentary on the gradual uptown movement of business during the years of his activities. Each change carried him a block or two farther north. His location prior to 1800 is unknown, but in that year he was at 4 New Street. Three years later he is listed at 27 Pine Street; in 1807 he moved to 13 Dutch Street and in 1810 to 28 John Street. There he remained for ten years when he removed to 53 Gold Street, an address which continued for another decade. His final move was to Pike Street.

Physically, Rollinson was a large and very powerful man. It has been said that before coming to America he was the strongest individual in England, being able to lift a keg of ale and hold it at arm's length when merely gripping the rim between thumb and forefinger. Having a robust constitution, he continued to work far beyond the age at which most men retire. Dunlap wrote that "Mr. Rollinson, now in the seventy-fourth year of his age, is full of life and strength and continues to work with unabated ardor—" His last recorded engraving is a vignette illustration for Professor Anthon's edition of Horace made when he was 70.



—Charles Rollinson

Rollinson's Own Trade Card

His cards of this design appeared in the early 19th-Century directories for New York City with various street addresses, 27 Pine Street, 13 Dutch Street, and 37 Pike Street, as Rollinson moved from one location to another.

ENGRAVER OF WASHINGTON'S BUTTONS 187

general of militia, which office he fills in a green old age, to the satisfaction of his countrymen.

PETER R. MAVERICK¹

Was originally a silversmith. He is sometimes called Peter Maverick the first, as his son and grandson, both named Peter, have followed his profession. He etched and engraved for many years in New York. In 1787-8, he taught me the theory and practice of etching, and in his workshop I etched a frontispiece for a dramatic trifle then published. He had his press in his workshop. The plates in the Bible above mentioned are the best specimens of his art; but, by being the teacher of his son Peter, and of Francis Kearney, he aided materially in the progress of American engraving.

WILLIAM ROLLINSON.

This worthy man, and very estimable citizen is a native of England, born in the year 1760.² He was in youth brought up to the business of chaser of fancy buttons, and came to New York with a view of pursuing the same, but soon found that little or nothing of the kind was practised or sought after here. He had, not long after his arrival, some work in the way of his original employment, the remembrance of which gratifies the sturdy old gentleman to this day. General Knox, first secretary of war, under the Federal Government, employed Mr. Rollinson to chase the arms of the United States upon a set of gilt buttons for the coat which was worn by General Washington, on the memorable day of his inauguration as president.

Soon after, General Knox called to make payment, but the young Englishman had caught the spirit of the country of his

¹ Peter Rushton Maverick, according to a notice in the *Newark Centinal of Freedom* of 1811, was born in this country April 11, 1755, and died in New York December 12, 1811. Sumner (*History of East Boston*) says that "He was a free thinker and a friend of Thomas Paine." Fielding states that his father was Andrew Maverick of Boston, who came to New York and was admitted a freeman July 17, 1753. He had three sons, Samuel, Andrew and Peter. Andrew became interested in the publication of prints. Samuel and Peter following the example of their father became engravers.

² He was born in England in 1762 and died in New York in 1842.

choice, and would receive no compensation; declaring that he was more than paid by having had the honor of working for such a man on such an occasion. Shortly after, the chiefs of the Creek Indians, with McGillivray at their head, arrived at New York, then the seat of the Federal Government, and silver armbands, and medals were required for these sons of the forest, as presents from the United States. These decorations required ornamenting, and General Knox remunerated the button-chaser, by giving him many of them to engrave.

Mr. Rollinson found employment in working for silversmiths, until 1791, when he made his first attempt at copperplate engraving, without any previous knowledge of the profession, or having even seen an engraver at work. This essay was a small profile portrait of General Washington done in the stippling manner.

Through the friendship of Messrs. Elias Hicks and John C. Ludlow, Mr. Rollinson was recommended to the publishers of Brown's Family Bible, mentioned above, for which work he engraved several plates, and found employment with the few book publishers of that day. This practice had given Mr. Rollinson facility with the graver, and about this time, *i.e.*, 1800, Mr. Archibald Robertson having painted a portrait of General Alexander Hamilton, Mr. Rollinson boldly undertook an engraving from it, 18 inches by 14; he had no knowledge of *rebiting* and other processes used by those brought up to the profession, but had perseverance and ingenuity to surmount all difficulties, and finally invented a method of making a background by means of a roulette inserted in a ruling machine. When he commenced this engraving, it was intended to be done at leisure hours, and for practice, but when the plate was about half done, General Hamilton lost his life in a duel with Colonel Burr. The friends of Hamilton were solicitous for a print of him, and the engraver was urged to finish the plate with all expedition. An impression being taken from the engraving in its unfinished state, and the likeness acknowledged, the work was completed, and published by Messrs. Rollinson and Robertson, in 1805, and met with a good sale.

In 1812, Mr. Rollinson invented a machine to rule waved lines, for engraving margins to bank notes. Mr. W. S. Leney, an English artist from London (a good stipple engraver), joined Mr. Rollinson in producing a specimen note, which being approved, produced many orders from different parts of the United States. This invention of Mr. Rollinson was a great improvement in bank-note engraving, and caused a great sensation among engravers at the time. Mr. Rollinson, now in the 74th year of his age is full of life and strength, and continues to work with unabated ardor and improved skill. In the 70th year of his age, he executed a vignette for the Messrs. Carvils, for an edition of Horace, by Professor Anthon, which is a proof of increasing knowledge in the art he professes. At the age of 74, his portrait has been painted by Mr. Agate, an excellent likeness, which might indicate a man of fifty.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Jim Boulden
Crown Quay
26 Trehern Rd.
East Sheen, London SW148PD
United Kingdom

8 May 1995

Dear Mr. Boulden:

I delayed answering your 21 March 1995 letter until I obtained choice photocopies of our collection of Bank of St. Louis items engraved by Rollinson. The originals are extremely rare and include the earliest view of St. Louis.

Other notes are mentioned (under Leney also) in the enclosed excerpts from The Engraver's Line by Gene Hessler. We probably have some of those in our collection too.

Thank you for the Rollinson data.

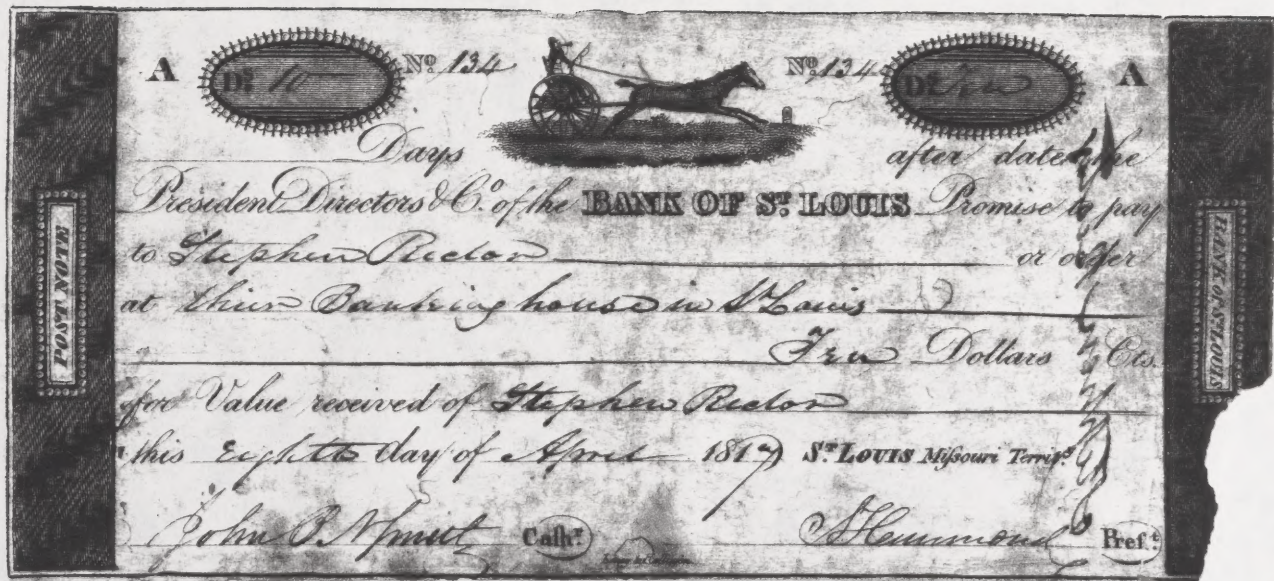
My wife and I will be in England from 19 July 1995 to 25 July 1995. We expect to be at the Ritz Hotel in London from 21 July to 25 July. Perhaps we can meet and share mutual interests.

I hope I have been helpful.

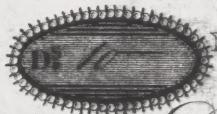
Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

enclosures



A



No 134



No 134



A

Days

after date

President Directors & Co. of the **BANK OF ST. LOUIS** Promise to pay
to *Stephen Reel* or order
at their Banking house in *St. Louis*

Five Dollars & Cts.

for Value received of *Stephen Reel*
this *eight* day of *April* 1817 *St. Louis Missouri Terr.*


John O. Smith


Cash

S. Hammond

Pres.

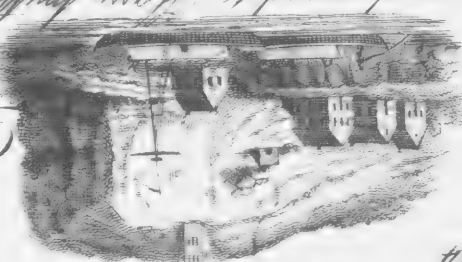
TEN




THE President *Directors* Co.
of the **BANK OF ST. LOUIS** promise to pay
on demand **TEN** Dollars to *Its* order or bearer.
ST. LOUIS Missouri T^y. *1873*
John D. Smith Cash^r  *J. Hammond* Pres^t


TEN

TEN



THE President *Directors* Co.
of the **BANK OF ST. LOUIS** promise to pay
on demand **TEN** Dollars to *Its* order or bearer.
ST. LOUIS Missouri T^y. *1873*
John D. Smith Cash^r  *J. Hammond* Pres^t


TEN



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A

Nº 1774




V

FIVE



FIVE

THE President & Directors of the Bank of St. Louis promise to pay
FIVE Dollars to Bearer or bearer on demand.
 St. Louis Missouri Territory June 18 1819
 John C. Smith Cashr.  *Hammond* Presr.
Lacey & Hollister



3


F

Nº 1774



3

THREE



THREE

The President & Directors of the Bank of St. Louis promise to pay on demand to Bearer or Bearer.
THREE Dollars.
 St. Louis Missouri Territory June 18 1819
Hammond Presr.  Cashr. *Smith*
Lacey & Hollister

2 TWO 2



2 . 1. 144 . 4 2

The President & Directors Co.
of the Bank of St. Louis Promise
to pay to *James A. Leavelle* or bearer on demand **TWO** Dollars.

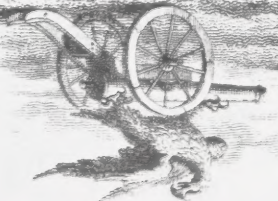
ST. LOUIS Missouri Territory Mar 15 1816

Wm. A. Hall Cash.  *Rudolph H. Frier* Pres.

Levey & Robinson

TWO


ONE



1 . 1 . 1

THE President & Directors Co.
of the **(BANK OF ST. LOUIS)** Promise
to pay to *James A. Leavelle* or bearer on demand **ONE** Dollar.

ST. LOUIS Missouri Territory Mar 15 1816

Wm. A. Hall Cash.  *Rudolph H. Frier* Pres.

Levey & Robinson

ONE

Smithsonian, the Air Force Museum and major corporations including Gulf Oil and National Steel. Since 1963 he has created 55 pieces of art work for ABNCo, most of these for bonds and stock certificates. For the use of individual subjects see E. Cranz, K. Guy, W. Hauck, J. Hay, L. Kauffmann, J. Keller and J. Kisely.

LAW, Asa. *Trans.* From 1847 to 1855 Law is listed as a machinist at 204 Washington, Street in Boston. He was employed at the Boston office of American BNCo in 1859 and as late as 1862.

LAWRENCE, Thomas. *Sid.* He was employed at American BNCo in 1861.

LAWRENCE, Walter. *ScrpEng.* From the International BNCo he joined American BNCo on 1 April 1900.

LAWSON, Alexander. *Eng.* b. near Ravenstruther, Lanaarkshire, Scotland 19 Dec. 1772, d. Philadelphia 22 Aug. 1846. He came to the U.S. in 1794 and was first employed by Thackara & Vallance in Philadelphia. It is uncertain if he engraved bank notes.

LEE, Homer. *Eng.* b. Mansfield, OH 1855, d. 26 Jan. 1923. He studied art in Europe and Canada; he received a bronze medal for painting at the Charleston Exposition in 1902. Homer Lee & Co. Bank Note Engravers was first listed in NYC Directories in 1873; in 1887 the company was listed as engravers and printers of U.S. Postal notes. In 1881 the name was changed to HLBNC; an 1898 merger with the FrBNCo created the Franklin, Lee BNCo. Home Lee was elected as a member of the prestigious Salmagundi Club in 1895. His paintings received honorable mentions at the Vienna Exposition in 1873 and the Paris Exposition in 1900.

LEEDS, Lewis W. *Eng.*

LEGGETT, George. *LtEng.* Accused of being a Union spy, he was forced out of the company of Leggett, Keatinge & Ball, printers of CSA security paper.

LEITZY, ____. *Des.* This artist is credited with *Westward Ho*, an engraving by Frederick Girsch.

LENEY, William Satchwell. *PEng & PtEng.* b. England 16 Jan. 1769, d. Longue Pointe, near Montreal 26 Nov. 1831. After engraving in England he came to the U.S. in 1805. The Leney & Rollinson Imprint can be found on notes for the Manufacturers' Exchange Co., Bristol, CT, the Eagle Bank, New Haven, CT, Georgetown Bank, DC and the Bank of Vincennes, IN. Notes for the Bank of the Metropolis, DC were prepared by Leney, Rollinson & Maverick. After considerable success as an engraver in the U.S., Leney moved to Montreal in 1820 and engraved the first bank notes for the Bank of Montreal.

LEO, ____. *ScrpEng.* He was employed at Republic BNCo.

LEONHARDT, THEODORE & SON. *Lith.* They operated in Philadelphia from about 1874-1922, one address was 922 Locust St. "The connection between Leonhardt and (E.A.) Wright, according to Fred (Schwan), was possibly that Leonhardt was a subcontractor doing various jobs for Wright..." (Shafer, July, p. 18). One of their sample book includes numerous, lithographed subjects that are definitely based on ABNCo engravings.

LeROUX, Charles. He engraved portions of notes dated 1734 and 1737 for New York.

LEUTZ, H.W. *Eng.* He was employed at the Philadelphia office of American BNCo in the early 1860s.

In Jan. 1863, became vice-president and continued in that office when ABNCo consolidation took place. At least ten bank note-related patents are recorded in his name. In *The EPJ* (1964, 81, p. 24), the portion of his diary that covers the contract procurement for the first charter, national bank notes by the Continental BNCo is reprinted.

ROBINSON, William. *ScrpEng.* He was employed at American BNCo from 22 Feb. 1926 until 2 July 1931. On 12 July 1935 Robinson was rehired.

ROLLINS, Harry R. *PEng.* b. 7 July 1908. He joined the Bureau of Engraving and Printing as an apprentice engraver on 20 December 1924; Rollins became an apprentice picture engraver on 28 July 1927; he was named picture engraver on 27 Oct. 1936. Rollins engraved the portrait of *Levi Woodbury* on an Internal Revenue stamp. He retired on 22 July 1944.

Stock Transfer Stamps

Campbell, George W.
Crawford, William A.

Folger, Charles J.

Forward, Walter.
Thomas, Philip F.

ROLLINSON, Charles. *Eng.* b. ca. 1793, d. Boston, MA 19 Jan. 1833. He worked with his father, William Rollinson from ca. 1808-1832.

ROLLINSON, William. *PtEng.* b. Dudley, Staffordshire, England 12 Apr. 1762, d. NYC 21 Sept. 1842. He came to the U.S. in 1788; he was in New York City on 15 Feb. 1789. One of his first tasks was chasing the buttons on President George Washington's inauguration coat. He worked as a book illustrator. Rollinson was affiliated with the following bank note firms: Maverick, Leney & Rollinson; Leney, Rollinson & Maverick; Rollinson, Leney & Maverick; Leney & Rollinson; and a company under his name alone. He could be the engraver of the first Bank of New York notes. On 18 March 1811 he published the following prospectus: "The desideratum that has been long wanted to prevent the counterfeiting of Bank Notes, is some kind of work that is of itself simple in appearance yet impossible to be imitated in the common mode of engraving. I take the liberty of laying before you a specimen of work. I have procured the assistance of Mr. William Leney.... The other parts of the Note are engraved by myself" (Brazier 1938, XVII: 4, 285). In 1812 Rollinson invented a machine to rule wavy lines on bank note plates.

ROLPH, John A. *Et & Eng.* b. Essex, England 1799, d. 1862. He assisted J. Smillie at Rawdon, Wright, Hatch & Smillie. Rolph exhibited his art work at the National Academy of Design. He engraved the Rhode Island coat of arms, used on a variety of notes including the unlikely Hawaii \$20, P2.

ROLLINSON, Charles. *Eng & CPP.* He engraved for Rawdon, Wright & Hatch ca. 1812. In 1816 his New York address was 28 Pine St.; from 1817 to 1820, 28 John St.

ROLLINSON, William. *Eng.* He is the probable engraver of NY notes (1784), and could be the same engraver who did work for Rawdon, Wright & Hatch ca. 1815. Between 1790 and 1820 his NY address was, at various times, New St., John St., Pine St. and Dutch St.

ROMERSON, D.S. *Des.* He was employed by the National BNCo. The U.S., FC 25¢, H1568-1572, is credited to Romerson..

RONALDSON, Douglas S. *OrEng & LtEng.* b. England 1825, d. 1902. He moved to Philadelphia in 1840 and was working as an engraver in 1858. Ronaldson was employed by American BNCo in that city in the early 1860s. He was with the National BNCo in July 1868 and remained after the consolidation of ABNCo until ca. 1897. At that time he joined the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and remained there until his death.

5 June 1995

Dear Mr. Newman,

I am on the East Coast for a few days, so decided to write you from my father's house to say that my wife & I ~~would~~ be delighted to see you in London.

We live in South West London, about 1/2 hour by bus from your hotel. You're welcome to come by one evening, or we can come to you for a drink & discuss Wm Rollinson etc.

Our phone number (once in London) is:

0181-878-0742. + work 0171-542-4898

Call ^{or write} us & let me know.

Jim Boulton